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Letter dated 27 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to request your assistance in having the enclosed statement of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia (see annex) circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia

The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia notify that all sales contracts concluded anywhere between Albanians and displaced Serbs and Montenegrins and members of other national communities after 10 June 1999 and relative to immovable property in Kosovo and Metohija shall be considered invalid considering that they have been concluded contrary to the constitutional order and the positive laws of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

1. In the situation when more than 350,000 Serbs, Montenegrins and members of other non-Albanian ethnic communities have been expelled from Kosovo and Metohija by force, when neither public peace and order nor guarantees of physical and property security of citizens exist, when almost all immovable property has been seized by Albanians illegally, there are no conditions whatsoever for a free expression of the will of parties, i.e. no conditions for concluding contracts on immovable property, so that all contracts are concluded under duress/pressure which is the basis for the invalidity of contracts.

2. Such contracts do not have the necessary agreement of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia, either, under the Law on Special Conditions of Immovable Property Transaction.

3. On the basis of the aforementioned, such "contracts" cannot be certified with the competent court, nor can they serve as a basis for making an entry into cadastre books.

As in the past, the competent authorities of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shall continue to protect the property rights of the residents of Kosovo and Metohija also in the future in accordance with the constitutional order and the laws of the Republic of Serbia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.